

REMARKS

By this amendment, claim 9 has been amended to correct an omission therein and claims 14-17 are added to present additional arguments in favor of patentability. Currently, claims 1, 3, and 5-13 are before the Examiner for consideration on their merits.

Claims 14 and 15 are added to better clarify that the continuous line of adhesive touches or crosses over the diametrically opposite line from the continuous line's starting point. Claims 16 and 17 further define the path as crossing over the diametrically opposite line.

In the final rejection, the Examiner continues to assert that both of Van Eperen and Kwok teach that the adhesive forms a continuous line that is equal to or greater than the circumference of the elastic member. Applicants have consistently argued that this feature is not found in either of these patents. This argument is highlighted by claims 14 and 15 which require that the path of the line touches or goes beyond the diametrically opposite line of the elastic member. This feature is not present in either Van Eperen or Kwok, and claims 1, 6, 14, and 15 are all separately patentable from these references.

Lastly, if another rejection is made, the Examiner is requested to clarify the rejection since a second Kwok patent was cited in the final rejection, but it is not used in the rejection.

Again, reconsideration and allowance of this application is respectfully solicited.

Please charge deposit account no. 50-1088 for any shortages in fees in connection with this filing, and credit any overpayments as well.

Respectfully submitted,

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